Amendments to the Claims

61. **(Currently Amended)** A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody~~, or fragment thereof,~~ having binding specificity to ~~LTA~~ Lipoteichoic acid (LTA) of Gram positive bacteria and a carrier, wherein the antibody i) binds to both coagulase positive and coagulase negative Staphylococci, ii) enhances opsonization of Gram positive bacteria by phagocytic cells ~~by 75% or more~~ over background as compared to an appropriate control in an in vitro opsonization assay, and iii) confers a statistically significant enhancement of survival or reduces bacteremia in an animal model, wherein the composition is formulated for pharmaceutical administration.

62. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61, wherein the opsonization assay is performed in the presence of complement, phagocytic cells, or both ~~combination thereof~~.

63. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 62, wherein the complement~~,~~ or cells~~, or combination thereof is~~ or both are human in origin.

64. **(Canceled)**

65. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 62, wherein the phagocytic cells ~~are~~ comprise macrophages, monocytes, neutrophils, or combinations thereof.

66. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 62, wherein ~~the~~ opsonization is measured by determining ~~comprises~~ opsonophagocytic bactericidal activity.

67. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61, wherein the antibody is capable of binding to LTA of Gram positive bacteria fixed to a solid support.

68. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 67, wherein the solid support is a plate well, bead, or micro-bead.

69. **(Canceled)**

70. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61 ~~69~~, wherein the ~~statically~~ statistically significant enhancement of survival in a ~~lethal~~ animal model is 25% or greater.

71. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61 ~~69~~, wherein the ~~statically~~ statistically significant enhancement of survival in a ~~lethal~~ animal model is 50% or greater.

72. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61 ~~69~~, wherein the ~~statically~~ statistically significant enhancement of survival in a lethal animal model is 70% or greater.

73. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61 ~~69~~, wherein the ~~statically~~ statistically significant enhancement of survival in a lethal animal model is 76% or greater.

74. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61 ~~69~~, wherein the ~~statically~~ statistically significant enhancement of survival in a ~~lethal~~ animal model is 90% or greater.

75. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61 ~~69~~, wherein the ~~statically~~ statistically significant enhancement of survival in a ~~lethal~~ animal model is between 67% and 83%.

76. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61 ~~69~~, wherein the ~~statically~~ statistically significant enhancement of survival in a ~~lethal~~ animal model is between 83% and 100%.

77. **(Currently Amended)** A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, ~~having~~ wherein the monoclonal antibody has binding specificity to LTA, wherein at least one heavy chain variable region or light chain variable region of the antibody has at least 70% amino acid identity with at least one ~~the variable~~ heavy or light chain variable region ~~of a heavy chain, light chain, or both a heavy chain and light chain~~ of ~~Mab 110~~ the monoclonal antibody 96-110 MAB and a carrier.

78. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 77, wherein the amino acid identity is at least 80%, 90%, or 95%.

79. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61~~, 69,~~ or 77, wherein the antibody comprises a portion of a human antibody sequence.

80. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 79, wherein the portion of human antibody sequence comprises an Fc region.

81. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61~~, 69,~~ or 77, wherein the antibody specifically binds LTA exposed on the surface of the cell wall of Gram positive bacteria.

82. **(Canceled)**

83. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61~~, 69,~~ or 77, wherein the antibody specifically binds to LTA of ~~Gram positive bacteria that are~~ *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.

84. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61~~, 69,~~ or 77, wherein the antibody specifically binds to LTA of ~~Gram positive bacteria that are~~ *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Staphylococcus aureus,* or both *Staphylococcus epidermidis* and *Staphylococcus aureus* .

85. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61~~, 69,~~ or 77, wherein the antibody specifically binds to LTA of ~~Gram positive bacteria that are~~ multiple serotypes of *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Staphylococcus aureus,* or both *Staphylococcus epidermidis* and *Staphylococcus aureus*.

86. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 85, wherein the antibody binds to ~~multiple serotypes of *Staphylococcus aureus* are~~ serotype 5, serotype 8, or both serotype 5 and serotype 8 of *Staphylococcus aureus*.

87. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61~~, 69,~~ or 77, wherein the antibody specifically binds to LTA of ~~Gram positive bacteria that are~~ *Staphylococcus epidermidis* and one or more Gram positive bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus mutans, Streptococcus faecalis*, and *Streptococcus pyogenes.*

88. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A~~ The composition of claim 61, wherein the monoclonal antibody~~, or fragment thereof, having binding specificity to LTA of Gram positive bacteria, wherein the antibody~~ specifically binds to LTA of ~~the Gram positive bacteria~~ *Staphylococcus epidermidis* and *Staphylococcus aureus*.

89. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61 or~~, 69,~~ 77~~, or 88~~, wherein the antibody specifically binds to LTA of Gram positive bacteria at a binding affinity of at least about 10^{-7} M or more.

90. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61 or~~, 69,~~ 77~~, or 88~~, wherein the antibody specifically binds to LTA of Gram positive bacteria at a binding affinity of at least about 10^{-8} M or more.

91. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61 or~~, 69,~~ 77~~, or 88~~, wherein the antibody ~~specifically binds to LTA of Gram positive bacteria and~~ reduces LTA-mediated inflammation, LTA-mediated cytokine production, or combination thereof.

92. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody~~ of claim 61 or~~, 69,~~ 77~~, or 88~~, wherein the antibody is of an IgG, IgA, or IgM isotype.

93. **(Currently Amended)** The composition ~~monoclonal antibody fragment~~ of claim ~~61, 69,~~ 77~~, or 88~~, wherein the antibody ~~fragment~~ is an Fab, Fab', F(ab')2, or sFv fragment of an antibody.

94. **(Currently Amended)** ~~A polyclonal antibody composition comprising at least one of the antibodies~~ The composition of claim 61 or~~, 69,~~ 77~~, or 88~~, further comprising at least one additional monoclonal antibody having specificity for LTA.

95. **(Currently Amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of an antibody of claim ~~61, 69,~~ 77, ~~or 88, wherein the antibody binds LTA and is in a pharmaceutical carrier suitable~~ for use in a human neonate ~~humans~~.

96. **(Withdrawn)** A polynucleotide encoding an antibody, or fragment thereof, of claim 61, ~~69~~, 77, or 88.

97. **(Withdrawn)** The polynucleotide of claim 96, wherein the polynucleotide encoding the variable region of the antibody, or fragment thereof, has at least 70% identity to the polynucleotide set forth in FIG. 12.

98. **(Withdrawn)** A vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 96.

99. **(Withdrawn)** A cell comprising the polynucleotide of claim 96 or the vector of claim 98.

100. **(Currently Amended)** An antibody, or fragment thereof, produced by ~~the cell of claim 99~~ a cell comprising a polynucleotide or vector comprising a polypeptide encoding an antibody of claim 61 or 77.

101. **(New)** The composition of claim 61, wherein the antibody is of the IgG isotype.

102. **(New)** The composition of claim 77, wherein the monoclonal antibody, or antigen binding fragment thereof, specifically binds to LTA of *Staphylococcus epidermidis* and *Staphylococcus aureus*.

103. **(New)** The composition of claim 61, wherein opsonization is enhanced by 75% or more over background.